

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, FAO

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL, 66TH SESSION, LAST HALF OF FIRST WEEK

/SUMMARY/ - AT HALF-WAY POINT FAO COUNCIL IS NEARLY ON SCHEDULE.
ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE LDC ELECTIONS TO CONSULTATIVE GROUP
ON FOOD PRODUCTION INVESTMENT, CHOICE OF INDONESIA FOR FORESTRY
CONGRESS, DISCUSSION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER RE
UNGA-SS7, DISCUSSION OF FAO MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTATION, AND
INITIAL DISCUSSION OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

/END SUMMARY/

1. LDC MEMBERS OF CGFPI WERE ANNOUNCED AS FOLLOWS: SYRIA
AND SUDAN FOR NEAR EAST, BRAZIL AND MEXICO FOR LATIN AMERICA,
BURMA AND INDONESIA FOR ASIA, AND TURKEY AND YUGOSLAVIA FOR
EUROPE. TWO AFRICAN MEMBERS TO BE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING WEEK
AFTER CLARIFICATION REGARDING NEW DONOR COUNTRIES.

2. CUBA ATTACKED OAS AS REGIONAL GROUP MAKING ABOVE SELECTION,
CHARGING IT WAS DISQUALIFIED AS NOT REPRESENTING ALL COUNTRIES
IN REGION. MEXICO AGREED OAS NOT FULLY REPRESENTING REGION.
ARGENTINA, NOTING AMB. ORFILA - NOW PRESIDENT OAS - REPLIED
THAT ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OAS AS REGIONAL GROUP WAS
UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT OAS IS WORKING TOWARD FULL REPRESENTA-
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TION. BRAZIL AND CHILE SECONDED ARGENTINA'S STATEMENTS.

3. INDONESIA AND BULGARIA TURNED OUT TO SUBMIT ONLY QUALIFIED INVITATIONS TO EIGHT FORESTRY CONGRESS IN 1978. INDONESIA WAS ELECTED. U.S. AND AUSTRALIA AGAIN SOWED SEEDS OF RELIEVING FAO OF SELECTION RESPONSIBILITY.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND A FEW DELEGATES COMMENTED ON REPORT OF EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF UN. SECRETARIAT STATEMENT INDICATED ADHERENCE TO PATTERN OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND MAY LDC'S SPECIFICALLY ADVOCATED THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. TO FORESTALL ONE-SIDED SUMMARY AND PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR A SOFTENING REPORT USDEL MADE STATEMENT RESERVING POSITION ON NIEO.

5. UNIDO-REPORT OF SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE AND RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WERE FIRST TWO SUBJECTS BEFORE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND WERE DISPOSED OF WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

6. SPIRITED DISCUSSION AROSE IN PLENARY UNDER NEW AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED PROGRAMMING OF MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS. DIRECTOR-GENERAL POINTED OUT EXPLOSION OF MEETINGS THAT OCCURRED AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN FIRST HALF 1975, AS WELL AS TIMING OF MEETINGS CLOSE TO COUNCIL. AMONG POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED WERE GREATER CARE BY ORGANIZATIONS (I.E., GOVERNMENTS) AND SECRETARIAT IN SCHEDULING, A SMALL INFORMAL PANEL OF PERM REPS TO ADVISE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON SCHEDULING, MORE SELF-RESTRAINT BY ORGANIZATIONS IN HOLDING MEETINGS, BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN MEETINGS AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES, AND SPECIFIC MEANS OF STRENGTHENING TRANSLATOR SERVICE. BROAD RANGE OF DELEGATIONS FROM ALL REGIONS CALLED FOR REDUCTION OF MEETINGS AND SAW DANGERS OF MULTIPLE COMMITTEES.

7. WORLD FOOD SECURITY WAS DISCUSSED IN PLENARY ALL FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND HELD OVER FOR MONDAY. REPORT OF AD HOC CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CWFS) WERE DISCUSSED TOGETHER. USDEL MADE FIRST INTERVENTION AFTER PRESENTATION BY SECRETARIAT AND CENTERED IT ON LONDON GROUP EFFORTS WITH MAJOR EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS, STRESSING UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLEMENTARY EFFECT OF LONDON AND FAO EFFORTS. AT SAME TIME, USDEL SUGGESTED GIVING TIME FOR CCP STUDY OF RELATION OF CCP AND CWFS DUTIES AND NOTED DANGERS OF MULTIPLYING COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS. AUSTRALIA FOLLOWED WITH STRONG PRESENTATION CALLING FOR DEFERRAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM FLOOR, FAO LEGAL COUNSEL GAVE OPINION THAT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION APPROVED BY UNGA CARRIES GREAT WEIGHT BUT IS NOT, RPT NOT, LEGALLY BIND-

ING ON FAO COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE. AMONG EIGHT INTERVENTIONS
THAT FOLLOWED, TWO SIMPLY OPTED FOR NEW CWFS, TWO SEEMED
INCLINED AGAINST IT, AND THREE WERE IN DOUBT BUT WILLING TO
DELAY DECISION FOR CCP STUDY AND FINAL ACTION BY FAO CON-
FERENCE.VOLPE

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